

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT

for the

Eastern District of Missouri

United States of America

v.

THEODORE JOHN SARTORI, Sr.

Defendant

Case No. 4:22 CR 690-2 MTS (PLC)

ORDER OF DETENTION PENDING TRIAL

Part I - Eligibility for Detention

Upon the

- ☒ Motion of the Government attorney pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 3142(f)(1), or
☐ Motion of the Government or Court's own motion pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 3142(f)(2),

the Court held a detention hearing and found that detention is warranted. This order sets forth the Court's findings of fact and conclusions of law, as required by 18 U.S.C. § 3142(i), in addition to any other findings made at the hearing.

Part II - Findings of Fact and Law as to Presumptions under § 3142(e)

- ☐ **A. Rebuttable Presumption Arises Under 18 U.S.C. § 3142(e)(2)** (*previous violator*): There is a rebuttable presumption that no condition or combination of conditions will reasonably assure the safety of any other person and the community because the following conditions have been met:
- ☐ **(1)** the defendant is charged with one of the following crimes described in 18 U.S.C. § 3142(f)(1):
- ☐ **(a)** a crime of violence, a violation of 18 U.S.C. § 1591, or an offense listed in 18 U.S.C. § 2332b(g)(5)(B) for which a maximum term of imprisonment of 10 years or more is prescribed; **or**
 - ☐ **(b)** an offense for which the maximum sentence is life imprisonment or death; **or**
 - ☐ **(c)** an offense for which a maximum term of imprisonment of 10 years or more is prescribed in the Controlled Substances Act (21 U.S.C. §§ 801-904), the Controlled Substances Import and Export Act (21 U.S.C. §§ 951-971), or Chapter 705 of Title 46, U.S.C. (46 U.S.C. §§ 70501-70508); **or**
 - ☐ **(d)** any felony if such person has been convicted of two or more offenses described in subparagraphs (a) through (c) of this paragraph, or two or more State or local offenses that would have been offenses described in subparagraphs (a) through (c) of this paragraph if a circumstance giving rise to Federal jurisdiction had existed, or a combination of such offenses; **or**
 - ☐ **(e)** any felony that is not otherwise a crime of violence but involves:
 - (i)** a minor victim; **(ii)** the possession of a firearm or destructive device (as defined in 18 U.S.C. § 921);
 - (iii)** any other dangerous weapon; or **(iv)** a failure to register under 18 U.S.C. § 2250; **and**
- ☐ **(2)** the defendant has previously been convicted of a Federal offense that is described in 18 U.S.C. § 3142(f)(1), or of a State or local offense that would have been such an offense if a circumstance giving rise to Federal jurisdiction had existed; **and**
- ☐ **(3)** the offense described in paragraph (2) above for which the defendant has been convicted was committed while the defendant was on release pending trial for a Federal, State, or local offense; **and**
- ☐ **(4)** a period of not more than five years has elapsed since the date of conviction, or the release of the defendant from imprisonment, for the offense described in paragraph (2) above, whichever is later.

☒ **B. Rebuttable Presumption Arises Under 18 U.S.C. § 3142(e)(3)** (*narcotics, firearm, other offenses*): There is a rebuttable presumption that no condition or combination of conditions will reasonably assure the appearance of the defendant as required and the safety of the community because there is probable cause to believe that the defendant committed one or more of the following offenses:

- ☐ (1) an offense for which a maximum term of imprisonment of 10 years or more is prescribed in the Controlled Substances Act (21 U.S.C. §§ 801-904), the Controlled Substances Import and Export Act (21 U.S.C. §§ 951-971), or Chapter 705 of Title 46, U.S.C. (46 U.S.C. §§ 70501-70508);
- ☐ (2) an offense under 18 U.S.C. §§ 924(c), 956(a), or 2332b;
- ☐ (3) an offense listed in 18 U.S.C. § 2332b(g)(5)(B) for which a maximum term of imprisonment of 10 years or more is prescribed;
- ☐ (4) an offense under Chapter 77 of Title 18, U.S.C. (18 U.S.C. §§ 1581-1597) for which a maximum term of imprisonment of 20 years or more is prescribed; **or**
- ☒ (5) an offense involving a minor victim under 18 U.S.C. §§ 1201, 1591, 2241, 2242, 2244(a)(1), 2245, 2251, 2251A, 2252(a)(1), 2252(a)(2), 2252(a)(3), 2252A(a)(1), 2252A(a)(2), 2252A(a)(3), 2252A(a)(4), 2260, 2421, 2422, 2423, or 2425.

☒ **C. Conclusions Regarding Applicability of Any Presumption Established Above**

☐ The defendant has not introduced sufficient evidence to rebut the presumption above.

OR

☒ The defendant has presented evidence sufficient to rebut the presumption, but after considering the presumption and the other factors discussed below, detention is warranted.

Part III - Analysis and Statement of the Reasons for Detention

After considering the factors set forth in 18 U.S.C. § 3142(g) and the information presented at the detention hearing, the Court concludes that the defendant must be detained pending trial because the Government has proven:

- ☐ By clear and convincing evidence that no condition or combination of conditions of release will reasonably assure the safety of any other person and the community.
- ☒ By a preponderance of evidence that no condition or combination of conditions of release will reasonably assure the defendant's appearance as required.

In addition to any findings made on the record at the hearing, the reasons for detention include the following:

- ☒ Weight of evidence against the defendant is strong
- ☒ Subject to lengthy period of incarceration if convicted
- ☐ Prior criminal history
- ☐ Participation in criminal activity while on probation, parole, or supervision
- ☐ History of violence or use of weapons
- ☐ History of alcohol or substance abuse
- ☐ Lack of stable employment
- ☐ Lack of stable residence
- ☐ Lack of financially responsible sureties
- ☐ Lack of significant community or family ties to this district
- ☐ Significant family or other ties outside the United States

- ☐ Lack of legal status in the United States
- ☐ Subject to removal or deportation after serving any period of incarceration
- ☐ Prior failure to appear in court as ordered
- ☐ Prior attempt(s) to evade law enforcement
- ☐ Use of alias(es) or false documents
- ☐ Background information unknown or unverified
- ☐ Prior violations of probation, parole, or supervised release

OTHER REASONS OR FURTHER EXPLANATION:

At the detention hearing, the parties proceeded by proffer and argument. The Court held the record open until December 21, 2022, so the parties could review and respond to the Bail Report. The Bail Report was filed on December 15, 2022, and it recommends pretrial detention. No party filed any supplement or response to the Bail Report. The undersigned adopts and incorporates herein the facts in the Bail Report.

Defendant is charged with serious child sex-abuse crime. Therefore, the government's detention motion in this case is aided by a rebuttable presumption that no condition or combination of conditions will reasonably assure Defendant's appearance as required and the safety of the community. In response to this presumption, a defendant must produce some evidence that there are conditions of release that will reasonably assure that he will not flee and will not pose a danger to the community. In this regard, however, the burden of proof remains with the government, and at all times Defendant retains his constitutional presumption of innocence. See United States v. Abad, 350 F.3d 793, 797 (8th Cir. 2003) ("In a presumption case ... a defendant bears a limited burden of production—not a burden of persuasion—to rebut the presumption by coming forward with evidence he does not pose a danger to the community or a risk of flight.") (quoting United States v. Mercedes, 254 F.3d 433, 436 (2nd Cir. 2001)). Moreover, even if a defendant meets his burden of production, "the presumption favoring detention does not disappear, but remains for consideration." Abad, 350 F.3d at 797.

**** CONTINUED ON ATTACHED SHEET(S) ****

Part IV - Directions Regarding Detention

The defendant is remanded to the custody of the Attorney General or to the Attorney General's designated representative for confinement in a corrections facility separate, to the extent practicable, from persons awaiting or serving sentences or being held in custody pending appeal. The defendant must be afforded a reasonable opportunity for private consultation with defense counsel. On order of a court of the United States or on request of an attorney for the Government, the person in charge of the corrections facility must deliver the defendant to a United States Marshal for the purpose of an appearance in connection with a court proceeding.

Date: 28 Dec. 2022

/s/ John M. Bodenhausen

UNITED STATES MAGISTRATE JUDGE

OTHER REASONS OR FURTHER EXPLANATION: (continued)

Defendant asked for release on conditions. Defendant is 62 years old and has no criminal history. Defendant does not have a passport and contends that he has strong ties to the area. Defendant is a life-long resident of Franklin County, MO. He owns a business and has family in the area. Defendant also noted that he would suffer financial and personal hardships if ordered detained. Defendant asked the Court to consider that the charges involve conduct that allegedly occurred several years ago, and that the Franklin County Prosecutor declined to charge Defendant even though co-defendant Fields was charged in the State.

The government relied largely on the nature and circumstances of the offense alleged, noting that the weight of its evidence was strong. The government pointed out that the victim of the alleged sexual abuse, who is now an adult, was in Court and prepared to testify if necessary and has provided remarkably consistent information. The government proffered that Defendant used his business in furtherance of the abuse by offering Defendant work and then assaulting her, and he also provided gifts to the victim's family for access. The government proffered that the only reason the sexual abuse ceased was because the victim became an adult and Defendant's access to her terminated.

The undersigned finds that Defendant proffered sufficient facts to rebut the presumption favoring detention. But even though Defendant has offered sufficient facts to rebut the presumption, based on the entire record before the Court, the undersigned concludes that there is no condition, or combination of conditions, that would reasonably ensure Defendant's appearance.

The government's evidence appears to be strong. Defendant is charged with an offense that occurred repeatedly over time. If convicted, Defendant faces a very long term of imprisonment—a mandatory minimum term of fifteen years and a maximum term of life. At Defendant's age, the range of punishment could encompass the remainder of his life. The undersigned finds that the government has met its burden of showing by a preponderance of the evidence that this Defendant poses a serious risk of non-appearance that cannot be addressed by reasonable conditions of release.

Regarding danger, the government offered no evidence to indicate that this Defendant has abused other children, has tampered with, intimidated, or attempted to intimidate any witness or victim in this matter. The government has not shown or alleged that Defendant has had any contact with the victim since the sexual assaults alleged. The government has not shown or alleged any other serious felonious conduct by this Defendant.

Based on the record before the Court, the undersigned concludes that the government has met its burden of proof. There is no condition, or combination of conditions, that would reasonably ensure Defendant's appearance. The government's motion for pretrial detention is granted.